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Date March 1, 2005

To Examiner Shih Wen HSIEH  
Group Art Unit: 2861

Of U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Fax 703 872-9306

From Jason C. Beckstead, Reg. No. 48,232

Subject Request for Return of Initialed PTO/SB/08 Forms

Our Ref Q76665 Your Ref USSN 10/624,610

Pages 11  
(including cover sheet)

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In re application of

Docket No: Q76665

KANAYA, MUNEHIDE, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/624,610

Group Art Unit: 2861

Confirmation No.: 7601

Examiner: Shih Wen HSIEH

Filed: July 23, 2003

For: FLUSHING POSITION CONTROLLER INCORPORATED IN INK-JET RECORDING APPARATUS  
AND FLUSHING METHOD USED FOR THE SAME

PAPERS ENTITLED:	1) Request for Return of Initialed PTO/SB/08 Forms	1 page
	2) Copy of IDS filed July 23, 2003	4 pages
	3) Copy of IDS filed May 18, 2004	5 pages

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the above identified correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office this 1st day of March, 2005.

A handwritten signature, likely of the examiner or sender, in dark ink.

## PATENT APPLICATION

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q76665

KANAYA, MUNEHIDE, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/624,610

Group Art Unit: 2861

Confirmation No.: 7601

Examiner: Shih Wen HSIEH

Filed: July 23, 2003

For: FLUSHING POSITION CONTROLLER INCORPORATED IN INK-JET RECORDING  
APPARATUS AND FLUSHING METHOD USED FOR THE SAME

## REQUEST FOR RETURN OF INITIALED PTO/SB/08 FORMS

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

As shown by the copies of the (dated and stamped) filing receipt herewith enclosed, Applicant filed Information Disclosure Statements on July 23, 2003 and on May 18, 2004. To date the Examiner has not provided an initialed copy of the noted Information Disclosure Statements (although listed as an attachment, the PTO/SB/08 for the IDS filed on May 18, 2004 was not actually attached to the Office Action of October 7, 2004) The Examiner is hereby respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on July 23, 2003 and May 18, 2004 by initialing and returning copies of Form PTO/SB/08 (which is a substitute form for the 1449 form). A copy of each of the noted Information Disclosure Statements is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason C. Beckstead  
Registration No. 48,232

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (650) 625-8100  
Facsimile: (650) 625-8110

MOUNTAIN VIEW OFFICE


23493

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: March 1, 2005

## CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this REQUEST FOR RETURN OF INITIALED  
PTO/SB/08 FORMS is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent  
and Trademark Office this 1st day of March, 2005.

  
Mariann Tam

MAR-01-2005 11:53

SUGHRUE MION

650 625 8110 P.03

38

REQUEST OF EARLY NOTIFICATION SERIAL NUMBER

Inventor(s): Munehide KANAYA Kazuhiko HARA, Shigenori FUKASAWA,  
Atsushi KOBAYASHI, and Kazunaga SUZUKI

Title: FLUSHING POSITION CONTROLLER INCORPORATED IN INK-  
JET RECORDING APPARATUS AND FLUSHING METHOD USED FOR  
THE SAME

Atty Doc. #: Q76665 Client: NGB CORPORATION

Filing Date: July 23, 2003 # Pgs. Spec/Abstr: 87/1 #Claims: 8

# Dwg. Sheets: 20 Decl copy Prelim Amdt yes

IDS/Prior Art: yes Pr Doc: in prior appln. 09/747,930 Asgmt: in prior  
appln. 09/747,930 Fee: \$750

☒ Check Attached ☐ Charge to Deposit # 19-4880 Atty/Sec: GB/cml

SERIAL NO.:

CONF NO.:



**PATENT APPLICATION**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of

Docket No: Q76665

KANAYA, MUNEHIDE, et al.

Appln. No.: Continuation of U.S.  
Application No. 09/747,930

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: July 23, 2003

For: FLUSHING POSITION CONTROLLER INCORPORATED IN INK-JET RECORDING  
APPARATUS AND FLUSHING METHOD USED FOR THE SAME

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

**FILED**

JUL 23 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form which are all the references of record in parent Application No. 09/747,930. Applicant is not submitting duplicate copies of these references but requests that they be listed on the face of any patent granted on the above Application. (See 37 CFR §1.98(d)). Copies of any cited copending Applications, if not previously submitted, are being submitted herewith.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present Application. Applicant does not

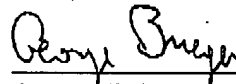
**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/747,930

**Q76665**

waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,



George Brieger

Registration No. 52,652

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC

Telephone: (202) 293-7060

Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: July 23, 2003

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
				Confirmation Number	Not Yet Assigned
				Filing Date	July 23, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Munehide KANAYA
				Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	Q76665
Sheet	1	of	1		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
		US 5,896,143		04-20-1999	MATSUI, et al.
		US 5,997,128		12-7-1999	LOU, et al.
		US 5,726,692		03-10-1998	YAMAGUCHI, et al.
		US 6,312,089	B1	11-6-2001	IMAI
		US 5,793,388		08-11-1998	MARTINSON, et al.
		US 5,717,445		02-10-1998	KIDA, et al.
		US 6,257,696	B1	7-10-2001	NAKAMURA
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
		EP	0 744 294	A1	11-1996	TAKASHI, et al.	
		JP	403227658	A	10-1991	HIRAKUE, et al.	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial.

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**FILING RECEIPT**  
**PLEASE DATE STAMP AND RETURN TO US - BOX 235X**

In re application of

KANAYA, MUNEHIDE, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/624,610

Group Art Unit: 2861

Confirmation No.: 7601

Examiner: HSIEH, SHIH WEN

Filed: July 23, 2003

For: FLUSHING POSITION CONTROLLER INCORPORATED IN INK-JET RECORDING  
APPARATUS AND FLUSHING METHOD USED FOR THE SAME

**PAPER(S) FILED ENTITLED:**

1. Information Disclosure Statement (with a copy of Communication from a foreign patent office, references and PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified)).

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC

Telephone: (202) 293-7060

Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

DOCKET NO.: Q76665

ATTORNEY/SEC: GKR/cdk

Date Filed: May 18, 2004

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER



**PATENT APPLICATION**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q76665

KANAYA, MUNEHIDE, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/624,610

Group Art Unit: 2861

Confirmation No.: 7601

Examiner: HSIEH, SHIH WEN

Filed: July 23, 2003

For: FLUSHING POSITION CONTROLLER INCORPORATED IN INK-JET RECORDING  
APPARATUS AND FLUSHING METHOD USED FOR THE SAME

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents, other than any U.S. patents and patent publications, is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicants enclose herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with an



**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT****U.S. Appl. No.:**

English-language version (if not already included) of at least that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

Enclosed is a copy of a Japanese Office Action issued on February 24, 2004, with respect to one of the priority applications of the above application. In the Japanese Office Action, the Examiner cited the following references and related arts.

D1: JP-A-10-226090

D2: JP-A-1-196348

D3: JP-A-6-115097

D4: JP-A-9-067530

R1: JP-A-10-278004

R2: JP-A-11-078038

R3: JP-A-9-234888

R4: JP-A-10-076677

As for references D1 to D4, and R1 to R3, Applicant does not believe that they are relevant to the claims of the present application.

With respect to reference R4, a complete English translation of the document is being submitted herewith, and therefore no concise explanation for such document is required.

The submission of the listed document is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove the listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
U.S. Appl. No.:

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



Grant K. Rowan  
Registration No. 41,278

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: May 18, 2004

MODIFIED PTO/SB08 A &amp; B (06-03)

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		<b>Complete if Known</b>	
		Application Number	10/624,610
		Confirmation Number	7601
		Filing Date	July 23, 2003
		First Named Inventor	KANAYA, MUNEHIDE
		Art Unit	2861
		Examiner Name	HSTEH, SHIH WEN
		Attorney Docket Number	Q76665
Sheet	1	of	1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation <sup>4</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>2</sup>	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		JP	10-76677				Yes

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>4</sup>

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with text communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.